

REMARKS

Currently claims 1-28 are pending in the above-identified application. By this Amendment, claim 14 has been amended, no additional claims have been added and no claims have been cancelled.

Pursuant to the above amendments and followings remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of the rejected claims and prompt allowance of the pending application.

I. **Indication of Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants' representative respectfully thanks the Examiner for her allowance of claims 1-13, as well as her distinguishing discussion of the claimed subject matter of the currently rejected claims, specifically, claims 14-26.

Pursuant to the statement of allowable subject matter, and two telephone conversations had on November 17, 2008, and February 3, 2009, Applicants respectfully believe that the above-indicated amendment to independent claim 14 clearly places the claimed subject matter within the necessary statutory subject matter convention.

II. **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 101**

The Examiner rejects claims 14-26 for failing to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 101. Pursuant to the above amendment to claim 14, Applicants believe that the claim amendment obviates the rejection under § 101. As such, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 14, under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Accordingly, the amendment made to claim 14, also acts to obviate the rejection of claims 15-26, which depend directly or indirectly therefrom.

III. Conclusion

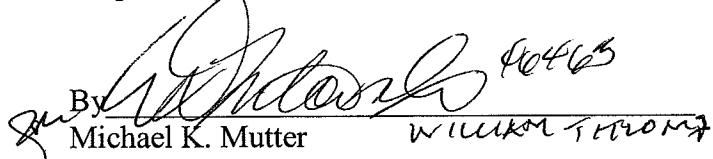
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact William D. Titcomb Reg. No. 46,463 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 4, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael K. Mutter *46463*
Registration No.: 29,680
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicants